657 scheme to Ioma and other areas. At Ioma "it was only when
245 faced with the alternative of going to gaol for failure to pay tax
466 that they were induced to work on the plantation .... In other districts the natives elected to pay their taxes in money" (P.A.R. 1925-6 : 52). The scheme survived, according to Captain Humphries (1944 : 2) who was at one stage responsible for it, "only because of the gaol that loomed in the background."

• 697 The standard penalty for failure to work was three
[687] months' imprisonment which was served by working on the government coconut plantations at Buna or Ioma, or on the government rubber plantation at Kokoda. These plantations were worked entirely by prison labour (apart from supervisory and specialist staff) and many of the older men we spoke to had served sentences for breaches of this ordinance. In fact, as Mair (1945 : 83) notes, the existence of government plantations which had no provision for paid labour acted as an incentive to prosecute for breaches of this and other laws.

245 Daily work on the community coffee gardens was
625 supervised by the village constables who were thus in a position of considerable authority. Nevertheless, this role may not have been particularly congenial for the constable was as likely as anyone to be punished for failure to keep the work up to standard. There was not a constable for each village, and the constable at Ongoho, for example, was responsible for the nine
245 Asigi villages which worked the Ongoho block.(1) The constables in turn were supervised by Papuan foremen known as "coffee bosses", each of whom was responsible for a number of
[657] communal gardens. The "coffee bosses" in turn were responsible to the European Controller of Native Plantations who was based at Higaturu.

245 Such was the difficulty of getting labour to carry the
466 produce from the factory at Higaturu to the port of Sanananda
465 (near Buna) that a special regulation was passed requiring all able-bodied men to carry produce whenever instructed to do so.(2)

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(1) For supervision of the plantation and normal police services he was paid ten shillings per year.

(2) Native Plantations (Northern Division Carrying) Regulations 1928.